

Celebrating the Nineteenth Amendment and Women's Suffrage

A Website Toolkit

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Many years of struggle, protest, and civil disobedience culminated in a life-changing resolution granting women the right to vote. Passed by the U.S. Congress on June 4, 1919, the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution marked a milestone in women's history. To commemorate the centennial of this event, school librarians and other educators will be exploring the history and impact of female suffrage.

The following toolkit provides key documents, resources, and activities useful in creating your own local celebration of this historic event.

PRIMARY SOURCE DOCUMENTS

From legal documents and promotional materials to historic photographs, a wide range of primary source documents can help students explore the story of women's suffrage.

Our Documents <<https://bit.ly/2xpULBq>> is a website featuring 100 milestone documents housed at the National Archives. In addition to reading the original joint resolution document, the page provides an explanation of the 19th amendment.

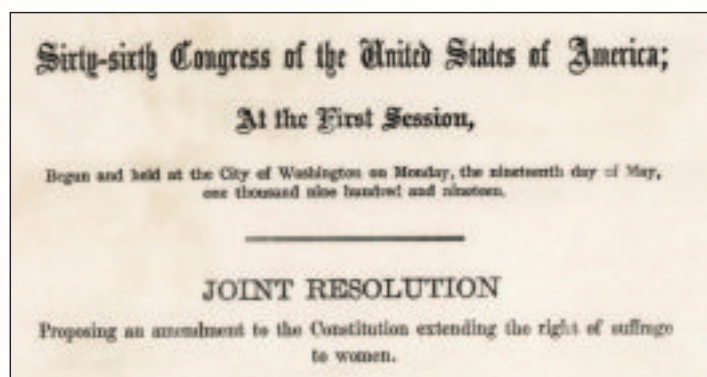


Figure 1. The 19th Amendment document

The Teaching with Documents area of the National Archives contains educational resources focused on **Woman Suffrage and the 19th Amendment** <<https://bit.ly/2FNmVZu>>. This project contains background information along with lessons associated with nine key documents published between 1868 and 1920.

The Constitution Center's **Women's Right to Vote** <<https://bit.ly/2dsarMx>> page explores topics related to the 19th Amendment and provides a common interpretation and matters for debate. Use it to discuss the connection between the 14th and 19th amendments.

The Digital Public Library of America's **Women's Suffrage: Campaign for the Nineteenth Amendment** <<https://bit.ly/2sEzBwD>> contains a primary source set, additional resources, and a teaching guide.

The Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History contains more than 100 digital items related to women's suffrage, including dozens of **Woman Suffrage Postcards** <<https://si.edu/2AVciTK>>. Ask youth

to select one of these postcards and think about how postcards might have been used to promote the cause of women's suffrage.

The **Woman Suffrage Memorabilia** <<https://bit.ly/2sF8LEi>> website provides access to digitized artifacts such as buttons, postcards, ribbons, and other materials associated with the movement. Use these items to jumpstart an inquiry into the use and purpose of such items in promoting the suffrage cause.

Many newspapers, brochures, and other documents related to the suffrage movement are available through **Internet Archive** <<https://archive.org>>. For instance, the **Suffragist** <<https://bit.ly/2FL8pVq>> was the weekly newspaper of the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage. Involve students in examining one issue and sharing how the newspaper was used to bolster support for the movement.

Discovering American Women's History Online <<https://bit.ly/2sG9cOI>> provides links to nearly 40 digital collections on women's history and specifically suffrage. Use this resource to curate a set of materials that best fit the



Figure 2. Woman Suffrage Postcard. National Museum of American History.



Figure 3. Volume 1 of the *Suffragist* newspaper. Staten Island Museum.

specific needs of students and the curriculum.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS RESOURCES

The Library of Congress houses a wide range of digitized documents and other resources connected to the 19th Amendment and women's suffrage. For instance, a 1917 photo from the photo collection shows the **Silent Sentinels** <<https://bit.ly/2B18UH1>> picketing outside the White House in Washington, DC. Organized by Alice Paul and the National Woman's Party, the suffragists protested peacefully 6 days a week between January 1917 and June 1919 when the 19th Amendment was passed. Each photo has a story to tell. Use these images to talk with stu-



Figure 4. Silent Sentinels: The first picket line. Courtesy Library of Congress.

dents about the commitment it would take to stage this type of quiet protest.

The **19th Amendment** <<https://bit.ly/2rU3LgG>> web guide provides a master list of internal and external primary source documents related to the amendment. These resources provide a larger context for a discussion of women's suffrage.

The **Votes for Women: The Struggle for Women's Suffrage** <<https://bit.ly/1q2bH7o>> project includes selected images across digital collections, including portraits, cartoons, ephemera, and more. For instance, **Three Suffragists** <<https://bit.ly/2nbprQY>> is a photo that would be useful in a class discussion. What were these women thinking as they cast their first vote?



Figure 5. Three suffragists casting votes in New York City. Library of Congress.

Several web pages at the Library of Congress include focused materials related to a subtopic or time period. The **Pictorial Americana: Women's Rights** <<https://bit.ly/2CzUv4l>> collection contains just nine images. Each visual reflects a different aspect of the history. **Women's Suffrage in the Progressive Era** <<https://bit.ly/17xfvqJ>> explores seven documents connected with the period between 1900 and 1929. The **American Women** <<https://bit.ly/2FCuBAU>> section contains four articles related to women's suffrage. Finally, **One Hundred Years toward Suffrage** <<https://bit.ly/2R8DbSI>>

is a useful timeline of key events.

One approach to exploring woman's history is through the associations that worked tirelessly for suffrage. Of particular note is the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA). The **Library of Congress NAWSA Collection** <<https://bit.ly/2RHTvW8>> contains nearly 2,000 digital items related to this organization. An example is a collection of poetry titled **Are Women People? A Book of Rhymes for Suffrage Times** <<https://bit.ly/2TeOUYg>> by Alice Duer Miller (1915), published in the *New York Times*. A majority of the documents are from the library of Carrie Chapman Catt, who was the president of the NAWSA from 1900 to 1904. Officers in the organization included well-known names like Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony.

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES AND MUSEUMS

Seek out historic sites and museums for resources connected with specific people, events, and locations associated with women's history. The National Park Services' **Women's History** <<https://bit.ly/2MLmCS7>> website introduces users to key locations around the United States. A **List of Historic Sites** <<https://bit.ly/2MIEm7h>> provides other starting points for exploration.

The **Women's Rights National Historical Park** <<https://bit.ly/2bUR8rZ>> shares the story of the first Women's Rights Convention. Held in Seneca Falls, New York, on July 19–20, 1848, the event is memorialized in the Declaration of Sentiments that laid the foundation for the women's move-

ment in America. The park's website contains a transcription of the document and information about many of the 68 women who signed this document.

The **National Women's History Museum** (NWHM) <<https://bit.ly/2fP950n>> website contains exhibits, articles, and resources related to women's history, along with a student and educator section providing teaching and learning materials. The **Crusade for the Vote** <<https://bit.ly/2NNW0nl>> website within the NWHM specifically explores the suffrage movement. This resource includes the history of women's suffrage, educational materials, primary sources, and a useful timeline.



Figure 6. The Crusade for the Vote. National Women's History Museum.

BIOGRAPHY RESOURCES

One way to help students understand the importance of the women's movement is to get to know the people who participated. Remind students that although there are many well-known leaders, there were also thousands of individuals across America who had an impact on the movement.

The individuals who campaigned for the right to vote were referred to as *suffragists* or *suffragettes*. A National Park Service **Did You Know?** <<https://bit.ly/2OCDU44>> article provides a useful description of the terms.

The National Women's **Hall of Fame** <<https://bit.ly/1WIODsI>> fea-

tures many influential women involved with the suffrage movement. Conduct a search within the inductee list for suffrage to view biographies of dozens of women.

Many universities have created digital collections on well-known suffragettes such as the **Susan B. Anthony Digital Collection** <<https://bit.ly/2sFT0Nr>> and the **Alice Paul Digital Collection** <<https://bit.ly/2FW8a9i>> at Harvard.

Beyond the big names in suffrage history, consider spotlighting lesser-known individuals who made an impact. The **Suffragist Spotlight** <<https://bit.ly/2T8OJh4>> contains dozens of both well-known and lesser-known figures to get you started.

STATE RESOURCES

Prior to 1920, supporters of voting rights for women worked toward passing suffrage acts in each state. Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, and Idaho were the four stars on the woman suffrage flag in 1896. Nine western states had adopted legislation by 1912. However, things really got rolling when New York adopted women's suffrage in 1917. Tennessee was the 36th state to ratify the amendment on August 18, 1920.

Involve students in examining the history of women's suffrage in a specific state. Then ask them to compare their state with a peer's inquiry. Why were some states early adopters? What were the key issues? Who was involved in the push for suffrage?

A search for a state name and the terms "woman suffrage" or "19th Amendment" will return resources in every state. Seek out government, museum, nonprofit, or library resources.

Below are a few examples:

California <<https://bit.ly/2FHVofc>>
Connecticut <<https://bit.ly/2RESSwT>>
Iowa <<https://bit.ly/2QGyohW>>
Kansas <<https://bit.ly/2W1SUGC>>
Montana <<https://bit.ly/1uiL29I>>
Virginia <<https://bit.ly/2sE2dWB>>
Texas <<https://bit.ly/2We6o9p>>
Washington <<https://bit.ly/2zrEgUV>>
Wisconsin <<https://bit.ly/2CDNa3K>>
Wyoming <<https://bit.ly/2qJ7JWJ>>

For more ideas, go to the National Park Service's **19th Amendment by State** <<https://bit.ly/2W8XDxe>> page.

TOPICAL FOCUS: WOMEN OF COLOR AND SUFFRAGE

Some students will be particularly interested on subtopics within the larger area of women's suffrage. For instance, much of the literature on the women's suffrage movement focuses on the role of Caucasian women. Native American, African American, Asian American, Jewish American, and other categories of women each had their own struggles leading to universal suffrage. Involve youth in focusing in on a particular group of women.

The essay **Between Two Worlds** <<https://bit.ly/2CyhmNU>> explores the challenges black women faced in their struggle for suffrage. Look for images such as **Nine Afro-American Women** <<https://bit.ly/2AYj3E7>> at the Library of Congress. Seek out biographies focusing on African American activists such as **Mary Eliza Church Terrell** <<https://bit.ly/2DoEguB>>, who helped to found the **National Association of Colored Women** (NACW) <<https://bit.ly/2FGLFWD>>. The **Black Suffrag-**

ette <<https://bit.ly/2RI50x8>> website provides a nice overview of key topics.

Although the Iroquois women of the Six Nations and other Native American peoples had a long tradition of female leadership, these women faced huge challenges in their quest to vote in United States elections. It wasn't until the **Indian Citizenship Act of 1924** <<https://bit.ly/2RHkDox>> that native peoples born in the United States were eligible to vote. Until 1962, some states continued to bar Native Americans from voting. The **Voting Rights Act of 1965** <<https://bit.ly/2sFmRWA>> eliminated remaining exclusionary practices. However, discriminatory practices still exist today. The **Getting the Vote** <<https://unc.live/2U8T5VL>> essay provides a useful essay on this topic.

Involve youth in selecting a subset of women and examine their suffrage challenges.

TOPICAL FOCUS: WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE AND THE MEDIA

The **Women's Suffrage and the Media** <<https://bit.ly/2rlqRsK>>



Figure 7. Women's Suffrage and the Media website

website serves as a multimedia resource for educators and scholars to learn about the connections between journalism and the suffrage movement.

TOPICAL FOCUS: ANTI-SUFFRAGE

Not everyone supported women's suffrage. The **National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage (NAOWS)** <<https://bit.ly/2jTUVdO>> is an example. Use the NAOWS page to start a discussion about those who opposed women's right to vote and their reasoning.

TOPICAL FOCUS: GLOBAL WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Beyond U.S. history, explore the impact of activism worldwide. The **Women Suffrage and Beyond** <<https://bit.ly/2RENidH>> project is housed in Canada. It contains informational and educational materials on suffrage movements around the globe.

TEACHING AND LEARNING RESOURCES

In addition to background information and primary source documents, also look for online sources to help classroom teachers develop effective curriculum materials and lessons associated with women's suffrage. For instance, Khan Academy's **The Nineteenth Amendment** <<https://bit.ly/2PDeKXt>> provides an easy to print review of the key topics.

A number of curriculum-related materials are available through the Library of Congress. The **Primary Source Sets: Women's Suffrage** <<https://bit.ly/2T6uiBH>> page contains a teacher's guide, a student discovery set, an analysis tool, and primary sources. The **Classroom Connections: Votes for Women** <<https://bit.ly/2RCSgaO>> project provides suggestions for using primary sources in teaching and learning. Other lesson plans include:



Figure 8. Newspaper article, 1916

Nineteenth Century Women <<https://bit.ly/2RMwa65>>

Suffrage Strategies <<https://bit.ly/2HsuTMq>>

Suffragists and Their Tactics <<https://bit.ly/2sE1zsd>>

Women's Suffrage: Their Rights and Nothing Less <<https://bit.ly/2sC4X70>>

Use the newspapers available in **Chronicling America** <<https://bit.ly/2vLFqqZ>> to explore current events during the suffrage movement.

Many government agencies, including the Library of Congress, have come together to promote materials for **Women's History Month** <<https://bit.ly/2BII5Or>>. This website contains exhibits, collections, audio and video, images, and teaching materials. Search within this website for materials specifically focused on a woman's right to vote.

The Newseum's **Women, Their Rights and Nothing Less** <<https://bit.ly/2FIuRyw>> collection provides educational materials including interactives and lesson plans for middle and high school students.

For those working with younger children, Scholastic's **Women's Suffrage Teaching Guide** <<https://bit.ly/2Duj8Br>> includes lessons, activities, and a reproducible. A **Teacher's Activity Guide** <<https://bit.ly/1DJw3Hk>> is also available.

While the teaching resources span 1600–2000, the **Women and Social Movements in the United States** <<https://bit.ly/2RHbfkt>> materials provide useful ideas for document-based questions and teaching strategies.

The **Rutgers Center for American Women and Politics** <<https://bit.ly/2RGv0Fj>> features a lesson model



Figure 9. The Right to Vote by Dolly Parton

on women's suffrage including discussion questions, activities, and resources. The focus is the changing role of women.

The **Stanford History Education Group** <<https://stanford.io/2W4kJ82>> provides background information, a lesson plan, original documents, and a PowerPoint presentation focusing on woman suffrage. The emphasis is on reading and thinking like a historian.

The **Teaching History** <<https://bit.ly/2R84FhR>> website is known for its high-quality teaching materials that

emphasize historical thinking. They've produced a series of lessons focusing on different types of primary source materials:

Women's Suffrage: Burroughs's Article <<https://bit.ly/2CGYRXl>>

Women's Suffrage: Jane Addam's Article <<https://bit.ly/2Hs8TBy>>

Women's Suffrage Cartoon <<https://bit.ly/2CNv4N5>>

Women's Suffrage Photographs <<https://bit.ly/2S7Yu28>>

In addition to resources and pri-

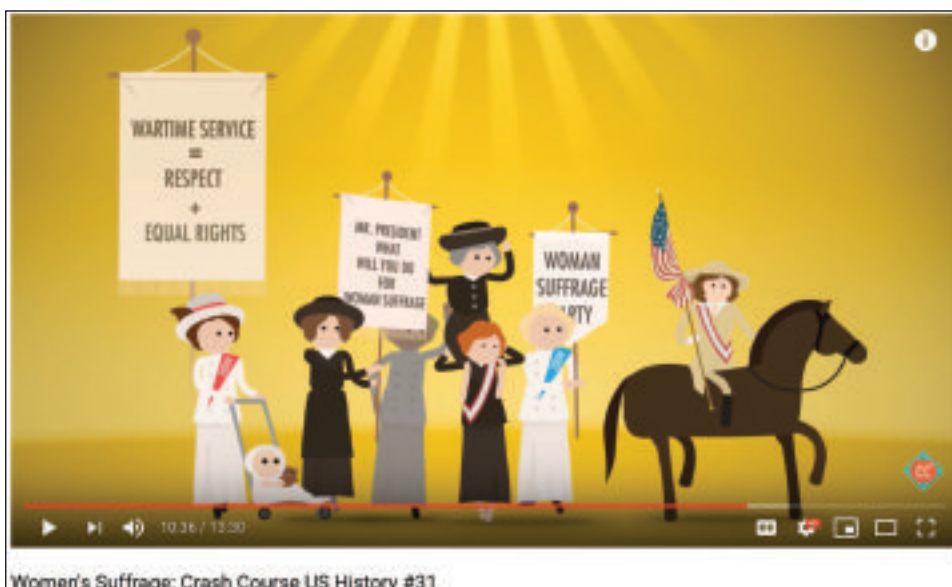


Figure 10. Crash Course's Women's Suffrage



mary sources, a few websites contain useful lesson plans:

Extending Suffrage <<https://bit.ly/2Hn1bIR>> from DocsTeach

Junior Ranger <<https://bit.ly/2T3zQN8>> from Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument

Parading through History <<https://to.pbs.org/2T9lF9g>> from PBS

Suffrage and the Civil Rights Reform Movements <<https://bit.ly/2W7PYiN>> from DocsTeach

Voting Rights <<https://bit.ly/2R80gM3>> from Education.com

Winning the Vote <<https://si.edu/2DuRXWX>> from the Smithsonian Institution

Women's Suffrage <<https://bit.ly/2sK7v2J>> from Gilder Lehrman

Woman Suffrage <<https://bit.ly/2CAbx2l>> from Jane Addams

Women's Suffrage <<https://bit.ly/2IOoO9c>> from Teaching Tolerance

For many more lesson ideas, go to **EDSITEment** <<https://bit.ly/2UacXI1>>.

MULTIMEDIA LEARNING RESOURCES

Students are attracted to multimedia materials such as short videos. Use these types of resources to draw interest and as springboards for inquiry.

Dolly Parton's **The Right to Vote** <<https://bit.ly/2HuIBhZ>> music video is a great way to generate questions and interest about the 19th Amendment. Students can read the lyrics <<https://bit.ly/2MyZWp2>> and listen to the song <<https://bit.ly/2B2NWrf>> through WNYC Studios.

The School House Rock videos have been popular for decades. **Suf-**

JUNIOR FICTION

WE'VE GOT GAME!

Maddox, Jake. **Touchdown Turmoil**. Stone Arch, 2019. 88p. \$25.99. ISBN: 9781496563316. Grades 3-5. Ethan plays wide receiver for the Locomotives football team, but when he drops a couple of passes in his specialty, the hitch and go, he starts losing his confidence. How can he regain it? He needs to regain his team's belief in him, too. Will practicing over and over do it? His dad keeps telling him positive visualization will do it. Coach Bob and Coach Jennifer believe in him. Now, it's up to him to find his confidence again. Contains glossary, discussion questions, writing prompts, and More about Receivers.

Maddox, Jake. **Blue Line Breakaway**. Stone Arch, 2019. 65p. \$25.99. ISBN: 9781496563170. Grades 3-5. Jack is a talented middle school hockey player who loves hockey but is tired of standing in the shadow of his older sister, Becca, who plays goalie on the boys' varsity team. Can he break away from her and become a star player on his own? Along the way, he needs to get through to his best friend, Mason, who's starting to get lazy and sloppy on the ice. Will Mason listen? Contains glossary, discussion questions, writing prompts, and More about Hockey.

Maddox, Jake. **Beyond Basketball**. Stone Arch, 2019. 89p. \$25.99. ISBN: 9781496563439. Grades 3-5. Juniper Jones may be the tallest girl on the basketball team, but she really doesn't care. Basketball used to be fun, but now she's more interested in science. But her dad, the team coach, is pushing her to keep playing and to work hard on her skills. Junie would rather go to science camp than basketball camp. The only thing that makes her change her mind a little bit is learning about how physics affects her playing. Just because she's so tall, why does she have to play basketball? It doesn't make her happy any more. Can she get that across to her dad? Contains glossary, discussion questions, writing prompts, and More about Tall Basketball Players.

Maddox, Jake. **Digging Deep**. Stone Arch, 2019. 62p. \$25.99. ISBN: 9781496563569. Grades 3-5. Asiyah Najjar is having a hard time adjusting to the rigorous practices of the travel volleyball team she just joined. She's got the skills, but her rec squad was much more casual and laid back. The new team doesn't seem to appreciate her funny behavior and dancing on the court. And she's also worried that she may run into players who don't understand her wearing her hijab [pictured on cover]. Can she dig in and get more serious? Or should she go back to the rec team? Contains glossary, discussion questions, writing prompts, and volleyball terms.

TELL US WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO READ



EMAIL:
publisher@teacherlibrarian.com

Tell us what topics you would like to read about, and we will seek to publish articles on those topics. Other comments and suggestions are welcomed, too.



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ferin Till Suffrage <https://youtu.be/CGHGDO_b_q0> is an engaging springboard to learning.

Seek out videos to supplement instruction. For instance, Crash Course's **Women's Suffrage** <<https://bit.ly/2aXaSVB>> on YouTube is a fast-paced, entertaining introduction to the movement featuring popular author and video blogger John Green.

PBS has produced many films on the women's movement. **Not for Ourselves Alone** <<https://to.pbs.org/2RKOsoh>> is a Ken Burns production focusing on the story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. Watch short clips at the website or locate sources for the full-length film. **Alice Paul: The Suffragist** <<https://to.pbs.org/2U9Cv81>> is part of the American Experience series.

Some PBS films are short clips, such as **Introduction** <<https://to.pbs.org/2U7OBP5>>, **Courage in Corsets** <<https://to.pbs.org/2U3Z5PA>>, **National Suffragist** <<https://to.pbs.org/2R7pHgv>>, **New Generation of Women** <<https://to.pbs.org/2R7qJJp>>, and **Modern Campaign** <<https://to.pbs.org/2FM8msD>> from KSPS Documentaries.

Many of the local and statewide PBS stations have made videos available. **Suffrage** <<https://to.pbs.org/2MVt2y1>> is a film from the Colorado Experience series and may be useful as a springboard to discussions about the role of each state in the suffrage movement. Other examples include **Nevada** <<https://to.pbs.org/2RKZnOw>>, **Oregon** <<https://to.pbs.org/2WcJXRD>>, and **Wisconsin** <<https://to.pbs.org/2U4RWhK>>.

Some videos focus on individuals, such as **Emma Smith DeVote** from <<https://to.pbs.org/2U8HNRd>>.

In many cases, women are featured from specific states, such as **Martha Hughs Cannon Tease** <<https://to.pbs.org/2Ta1qs0>> from Utah.

The **NWHM YouTube Channel** <<https://bit.ly/2WgD6H8>> provides a playlist focusing on American women's suffrage.

GET INVOLVED

Beyond integrating teaching and learning resources into the curriculum, consider ways that the school library, classroom teachers, and students can take action. **A Centennial of Women's Suffrage** <<https://bit.ly/2HPFL2d>> is a national research and art project. Encouraging an interdisciplinary exploration of English and language arts, history, and art, students are asked to share their family stories and reflect on the movement's impact.

The **2020 Women's Vote Centennial** <<https://bit.ly/2T7hT0b>> is another national project encouraging information sharing and activities. Their learning section provides background information, biographies, timelines, primary sources, and more.

The **National Collaborative for Women's History** <<https://bit.ly/2AVHKkQ>> is identifying locations around the United States that reflect women's experiences in American life throughout history. Work as a school to identify a local place that deserves recognition.

The years 2019–2020 will provide many opportunities to explore issues related to the 19th Amendment and celebrate the history of women's suffrage.